

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 OMB-01 /123 W

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R 150900Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4727

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1110

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IC

SUBJECT: FAILURE TO FORM LEFTIST GOVERNMENT PRODUCES RECRIMINATIONS

REF: REYKJAVIK 1101

1. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND PEOPLES ALLIANCE PARTICIPANTS IN UNSUCCESSFUL FOUR PARTY EFFORTS TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT (REFTEL) HAVE BLAMED EACH OTHER FOR BREAKDOWN OF TALKS. IN DISPUTE IS NOT ONLY WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILURE OF ATTEMPT, BUT ALSO ISSUE ON WHICH NEGOTIATIONS FOUNDERED.

2. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN GYLFI GISLASON CHARGED IN INTERVIEWS THAT ADAMANT AND UNREALISTIC PA STAND ON DEFENSE ISSUE CAUSED BREAKDOWN. SDP AND PROGRESSIVES, ACCORDING TO GISLASON, COULD HAVE AGREED ON PLATFORM CALLING FOR MODIFICATIONS IN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT, BUT PA REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH ANY AGREEMENT THAT DID NOT STIPULATE REDUCTION BY ONE HALF IN US FORCES NEXT YEAR AND COMPLETE PULL OUT IN 1976. GISLASON SAID THIS

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POSITION HAD BEEN REJECTED BY VOTERS IN JUNE AND THAT

THERE WAS NO PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IN SUPPORT OF IT.

3. PA, LED BY CHAIRMAN RAGNAR ARNALDS AND MAGNUS KJARTANSSON, CLAIMS TALKS FAILED BECAUSE OF SDP'S INSISTENCE ON FORMAL CONSULTATION WITH ORGANIZED LABOR PRIOR TO DECIDING ON TERMS OF ECONOMIC PLATFORM. ARNALDS SAID BOTH PA AND OLL APPROVE OF CONSULTATIONS WITH LABOR BUT THAT THEY HAD ACCEPTED PRIME MINISTERS STIPULATION THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS ONLY TAKE PLACE AFTER PARTIES HAD DISCHARGED THEIR BINDING RESPONSIBILITY TO FORM GOVERNMENT. SDP, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO ARNALDS, MADE DEMAND FOR ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS AN ULTIMATUM, THUS INSURING FAILURE OF EFFORTS. PA LEADERS CONCEDED THAT DEFENSE QUESTION WAS OBSTACLE, BUT CLAIMED AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE IF TALKS HAD NOT ABORTED OVER ECONOMIC/LABOR ISSUE.

4. PRIME MINISTER JOHANNESSON, WHO IS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH HE HOPES TO LEAD, AVOIDED ASSIGNING BLAME, SAYING THAT BOTH DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC MATTERS WERE RESPONSIBLE.

IRVING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, PARTY LINE, POLITICAL PARTIES, NEGOTIATIONS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974REYKJA01110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740224-0661
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740844/aaaablyw.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: REYKJAVIK 1101
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAILURE TO FORM LEFTIST GOVERNMENT PRODUCES RECRIMINATIONS
TAGS: PINT, IC, PA, SDP, (GISLASON, GYLFI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005